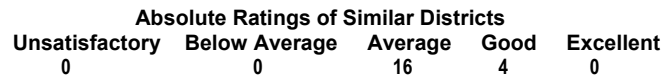


## Laurens 55

**ABSOLUTE RATING:** Average  
**IMPROVEMENT RATING:** Below Average



### Definitions of District Rating Terms

**Excellent-** District performance substantially exceeds the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal.

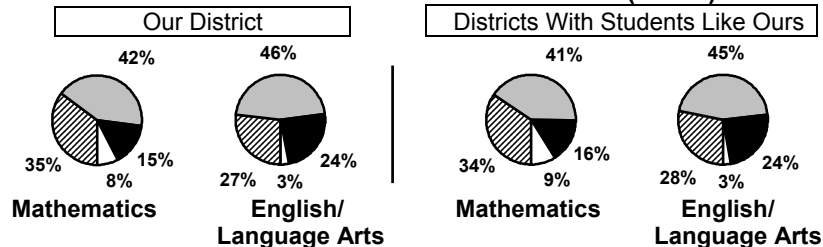
**Good-** District performance exceeds the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal.

**Average-** District performance meets the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal.

**Below Average-** District is in jeopardy of not meeting the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal.

**Unsatisfactory-** District performance fails to meet the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal.

## PALMETTO ACHIEVEMENT CHALLENGE TESTS (PACT) RESULTS



**Advanced**
 **Proficient**
 **Basic**
 **Below Basic**

### DEFINITIONS OF CRITICAL TERMS:

- Advanced** – Student performance exceeded expectations.
- Proficient** – Student performance met expectations.
- Basic** – Student performance met minimum performance expectations.
- Below Basic** – Student performance did not meet minimum performance expectations.

## PERFORMANCE BY STUDENT GROUPS

Student Group	Exit Exam Passage Rate by Spring 2002		Eligibility for LIFE Scholarships*		Students Scoring Basic or Above on The PACT		
	N	%	N	%	N	% ELA	% Math
<b>All students</b>	274	95.6%	243	12.3%	2,652	73.3%	64.6%
Students with disabilities other than speech	N/A	N/A	25	0.0%	328	43.6%	30.2%
Students without disabilities	274	95.6%	218	13.8%	2,312	77.9%	69.9%
<b>Gender</b>							
Male	120	96.7%	102	7.8%	1,341	67.4%	64.1%
Female	153	94.8%	141	15.6%	1,311	79.3%	65.1%
<b>Ethnic Group</b>							
African American	78	88.5%	73	4.1%	958	60.2%	52.1%
Hispanic	2	I/S	3	I/S	53	60.4%	58.5%
White	191	98.4%	166	16.3%	1,635	81.3%	72.2%
Other	2	I/S	1	I/S	1	I/S	I/S
<b>Lunch Status</b>							
Free/reduced-price lunch	80	90.0%	65	3.1%	1,378	64.8%	55.4%
Pay for lunch	192	97.9%	178	15.7%	1,260	83.3%	75.4%

N equals number of students on which percentages are calculated.

\*Using the criteria for students who entered college in fall 2001.

## Laurens 55

### TENTH GRADE PASSAGE OF ONE OR MORE SUBTESTS OF THE EXIT EXAM

	First-time Examinees		
	2000	2001	2002
<b>Our district</b>			
Passed all 3 subtests	72.5%	74.1%	58.7%
Passed 2 subtests	13.4%	14.8%	20.6%
Passed 1 subtest	10.5%	6.9%	12.6%
Passed no subtest	3.6%	4.1%	8.0%
<b>Districts with students like ours</b>			
Passed all 3 subtests	65.6%	68.5%	63.3%
Passed 2 subtests	18.1%	16.7%	18.9%
Passed 1 subtest	10.3%	9.2%	11.3%
Passed no subtest	6.0%	5.7%	6.5%

### LIFE scholarships at four-year institutions\*

	Percent of Seniors Meeting Grade Point Average Requirement	Meeting SAT/ACT Requirement
Our District	12.3	12.3
Districts Like Ours	17.3	18.1

\*Using the criteria for students who entered college in fall 2001.

**College Admissions Tests:** Tests that are frequently used in the college admissions process.

	SAT Verbal		SAT Math		SAT Total		ACT English		ACT Math		ACT Reading		ACT Science		ACT Total	
	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002
District	477	483	483	472	960	955	18.2	18.8	18.9	18.7	19.2	19.8	19.1	19.1	19.0	19.2
State	486	488	488	493	974	981	18.8	18.8	19.3	19.1	19.5	19.3	19.2	19.2	19.3	19.2
Nation	506	504	514	516	1020	1020	20.5	20.2	20.7	20.6	21.3	21.1	21.0	20.8	21.0	20.8

These tests were administered to samples of students:

**Terra Nova Test:** A national, norm-referenced achievement test.

Percent scoring in upper half

	Reading		Language		Math		Total	
	State	Nation	State	Nation	State	Nation	State	Nation
Grade 4	47.8	50.0	43.1	50.0	58.4	50.0	50.5	50.0
Grade 7	45.8	50.0	59.4	50.0	54.7	50.0	53.9	50.0
Grade 10	59.6	50.0	59.5	50.0	62.4	50.0	59.1	50.0

**National Assessment of Education Progress :** A national, criterion-referenced achievement test.

### Percents of Students

Test	Grade	Year	Advanced		Proficient		Basic		Below Basic	
			State	Nation	State	Nation	State	Nation	State	Nation
Reading	4	1998	4	6	18	23	33	32	45	39
Writing	8	1998	0	1	15	23	64	59	21	17
Mathematics	4	2000	2	3	16	23	42	43	40	31

### ABBREVIATIONS FOR MISSING DATA

N/A – Not Applicable

N/C – Not Collected

N/R – Not Reported

I/S – Insufficient Sample

## DISTRICT PROFILE

### INDICATORS OF DISTRICT PERFORMANCE

	This District	Change from Last Year	Districts With Students Like Ours	Median District
<b>DISTRICT</b>				
• Dollars per student	\$6,521	Up 8.6%	\$6,965	\$7,072
• Prime instructional time	89.9%	Down from 90.3%	90.0%	89.9%
• Student-teacher ratio	15.4 to 1	Down from 21.1 to 1	17.5 to 1	18.6 to 1
• Vacancies for more than nine weeks	0.2%	Down from 0.7%	0.4%	0.4%
<b>STUDENTS (n=5,900)</b>				
• Advanced placement/ Int'l baccalaureate program:				
Participation Rate	8.6%	N/A	8.5%	9.3%
Exam Success Rate	65.2%	N/A	57.4%	52.7%
• Attendance Rate	94.9%	Down from 95.7%	95.9%	96.0%
• Taking PACT (ELA) off grade level	9.5%	Up from 8.9%	6.1%	7.1%
• Taking PACT (Math) off grade level	5.8%	Up from 5.7%	5.6%	5.6%
• Retention rate	9.3%	Down from 9.8%	5.9%	5.6%
<b>TEACHERS (n=420)</b>				
• Professional development days per teacher	5.0 Days	Down from 6.5Days	5.0 Days	5.0 Days
• Attendance rate	95.8%	Up from 95.6%	95.2%	95.0%
• Advanced Degrees	42.9%	Up from 41.4%	43.4%	46.6%
• Continuing contracts	76.4%	Up from 76.1%	83.7%	83.1%
• Out-of-field permits	4.0%	Up from 3.6%	2.2%	2.0%
• Teachers returning from the previous year	85.3%	Down from 86.2%	88.7%	88.6%
• Average salary	\$38,825	Up 4.9%	\$38,821	\$39,023

## DISTRICT FACTS

<b>DISTRICT</b>				
• Annual dropout rate	3.8%	Up from 1.5%	3.4%	3.1%
• Percentage spent on teacher salaries	54.6%	Up from 52.6%	54.1%	53.7%
• Superintendent's years in the district	8.0	Up from 7.0	3.0	3.0
• Parent conferences	98.8%	Down from 99.7%	94.1%	93.9%
• Opportunities in the arts	Excellent	No change	Excellent	Excellent
• Number of schools	11	Up from 9	10	8
• Number of alternative schools	0	No change	0	0
• Number of charter schools	0	No change	0	0
• Number of magnet schools	0	No change	0	0
• Portable classrooms	11.1%	Down from 26.4%	7.5%	6.6%
• Attendance rate of district office staff	98.3%	Down from 99.1%	97.1%	96.8%
• Average administrative salary	\$66,548	Up 1.7%	\$65,840	\$66,570
<b>STUDENTS</b>				
• Enrollment in adult education GED or diploma programs	855	N/A	229	129
• Number of completions in adult education GED or diploma programs	65	N/A	53	37
• Suspensions and expulsions	1.9%	N/A	1.5%	1.5%
• Percent eligible for state gifted and talented programs	8.4%	Down from 9.9%	11.6%	10.6%
• Percentage with disabilities other than speech	10.7%	Down from 11.3%	11.2%	10.7%

Laurens 55 School District  
1029 West Main Street  
Laurens, South Carolina 29360



**Grades** K-12

**Enrollment:** 5,900 Students

**Superintendent** Edgar C. Taylor 864-984-3568

**Board Chair** Leni N. Patterson 864-682-2633

## THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

**Annual District  
Report Card**

**2002**

### DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Laurens County School District #55 had a new look in 2002. The number of schools increased from nine to eleven with the openings of Waterloo Elementary and Hickory Tavern Middle. The grade configuration changed or is changing in every school except Laurens District 55 High School. Students are being better served in this new arrangement.

Of the nine schools rated in 2001, the Education Oversight Committee recognized six as Palmetto Gold or Silver Award winners. We have an excellent group of principals and teachers in District 55 and our staff development program is vital to our continuing improvement. We stress reading, writing, and math training for all teachers and administrators. Our most recent focus is "Write from the Beginning", and it will be our primary focus of all education from kindergarten through eighth grade. At the high school level we will add "Thinking Maps" training for staff.

Improvement in the achievement of our students over the past few years is quite evident as we review all of our test scores. A dedicated and well-trained staff and clear directions from the administration and school board should assure a sustained climb to excellence.

Edgar C. Taylor, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

### South Carolina Performance Goal:

By 2010, South Carolina's student achievement will be ranked in the top half of the states nationally. To achieve this goal, we must become one of the five fastest improving systems in the country.

For more information, visit  
[www.myschools.com](http://www.myschools.com) or  
[www.sceoc.org](http://www.sceoc.org)